have on homeowners, on mortgage interest rates, on student loans and on automobile loans could be devastating to your constituents and mine. I am just wondering when we will be able to see a clean debt ceiling bill come to the floor of this House.

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman would yield further, I thank the gentleman for the question. I do know that the President and the Speaker have discussed this issue by phone and we will continue to work with the White House to determine the time frame for the debt limit extension.

It is also my belief that we can reach an agreement on a suitable downpayment for the balanced budget at that time.

As the gentleman will recall, the President was presented with a debt ceiling extension in November which he vetoed pursuant to the advice of the Secretary of the Treasury. The Secretary of the Treasury assured the President that he could manage affairs without that debt ceiling extension that the President vetoed at that time, and the Secretary of the Treasury has assured us that he can continue to do so until March 1. In the meantime, we are talking with the White House about the conditions under which we can send forward a debt ceiling increase that also is accompanied by a suitable downpayment on the balanced budget.

Mr. BONIOR. I just wish to advise my friend from Texas and his esteemed colleague on the other side of the aisle that we have filed a discharge petition, and we have Members who have signed it, to bring a clean debt ceiling to this floor. We invite responsible Members of the other side of the aisle who want to make sure that this does not happen to this country, that our credit rating is not besmirched, to join us so that we can bring this bill to the floor and we can get on with the business of this country without the threat hanging over our head that now looms there.

I thank my colleague.

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. EMERSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan, the distinguished minority whip, permitting me to inquire of the distinguished majority leader.

Next Thursday, February 1, is the occasion of the annual National Prayer Breakfast, and traditionally we are accommodated so that we do not have votes in the House before, say, 10:30 or 11 o'clock, because most Members like to participate in this event, which is held off the Hill.

After inquiring of the distinguished majority leader's staff, I am advised that you have allocated for that in the schedule, and I just wanted to confirm that

Mr. ARMEY. The gentleman is absolutely correct. We are scheduling no votes before, probably, 12 o'clock on

Thursday morning, and I guess I could encourage, and I am sure the gentleman would agree, that it is a wonderful opportunity for all of us to share that time together at the National Prayer Breakfast on Thursday morning. The schedule will surely accommodate that.

HOUR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourns to meet at noon tomorrow.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

ELECTION OF MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I call up a privileged resolution (H. Res. 343) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 343

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and he is hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

Committee on Ways and Means: Mr. Hayes of Louisiana.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ELECTION OF MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Mr. FAZIO of California. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 344) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 344

Resolved, That the following named Member be, and is hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

To the Committee on Ways and Means: Michael McNulty of New York.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a Member of the Committee on International Relations:

Congress of the United States, New York, January 24, 1996.

The SPEAKER,

House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I hereby resign my position as a member of the House International Relations Committee (HIRC) effective upon ratification by the full House of my membership on the House Ways and Means Committee.

While I look forward to returning to my assignment on Ways and Means, I wish to thank Chairman Gilman, Ranking Member Hamilton, and all the HIRC members for the many courtesies extended to me during my service on that panel.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL R. MCNULTY, Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

EXTENDING AUTHORITIES OF DE-PARTMENT OF VETERANS AF-FAIRS RELATING TO DELIVERY OF HEALTH AND MEDICAL CARE

Mr. STUMP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take from the Speaker's table the bill (H.R. 2353) to amend title 38, United States Code, to extend certain expiring authorities of the Department of Veterans Affairs relating to delivery of health and medical care, and for other purposes, with Senate amendments thereto, and to concur in the Senate amendments with amendments.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Clerk read the Senate amendments and the House amendments to the Senate amendments, as follows:

Senate amendments:

Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert:

SECTION 1. EXTENSION OF EXPIRING AUTHORITIES.

- (a) AUTHORITY TO PROVIDE PRIORITY HEALTH CARE FOR CERTAIN VETERANS EXPOSED TO TOXIC SUBSTANCES.—(1) Effective June 29, 1995, section 1710(e)(3) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking out "after June 30, 1995," and all that follows through "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "after December 31, 1996".
- (2) Section 1712(a)(1)(D) of such title is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995," and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1996,".
- (b) DRUG AND ALCOHOL ABUSE AND DEPEND-ENCE.—Section 1720A(e) of such title is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1997".
- (c) PILOT PROGRAM FOR NONINSTITUTIONAL ALTERNATIVES TO NURSING HOME CARE.—Section 1720C(a) of such title is amended by striking out "September 30, 1995," and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1997," (d) NEGOTIATED INTEREST RATES.—Section

(d) NEGOTIATED INTEREST RATES.—Section 3703(c)(4)(D) of such title is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1997".

- (e) MORTGAGES FOR ENERGY EFFICIENT IM-PROVEMENTS.—Section 3710(d)(7) of such title is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1997".
- (f) ENHANCED LOAN ASSET SALE AUTHOR-ITY.—Section 3720(h)(2) of such title is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1996".
- (g) AUTHORITY OF LENDERS OF AUTOMATICALLY GUARANTEED LOANS TO REVIEW APPRAISALS.—Section 3731(f)(3) of such title is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1997".
- (h) AGREEMENTS FOR HOUSING ASSISTANCE FOR HOMELESS VETERANS.—Section 3735(c) of such title is amended by striking out "December 31, 1995" and inserting in lieu thereof "December 31, 1997".